viii) Delegation of powers to field level executives.

Thermal and Hydro Power Plants

849. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion of some thermal power stations during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the hydro power plants which are going to be expanded during the above period; and

(c) the additional capacity expected to be added on completion of these power plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The proposals for capacity addition, including expansion of thermal power stations and hydro power plants, during the Ninth Five Year Plan are presently under examination and are yet to be finalise by the Government. The expected additional capacity would depend on various factors such as project preparedness, availability of financial resources, fuel linkages etc.

[Translation]

Basic Facilities to Slums

850. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL:
SHRI K.P SINGH DEO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any effective scheme and allocate funds for the overall development and providing basic facilities and solving the environmental problems of slum areas and katra in old colonies of cities in the country particularly in Delhi during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the names of the cities including Delhi for which the Government propose to allocate funds for the development and providing basic facilities in the slum areas and katras in old colonies of these cities and the amount proposed to be given to each city separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) The States have been provided additional Central assistance for slum development in 1996-97. As far as the Ninth Five Year Plan is concerned, it is yet to be finalised.

[English]

Setting up of Power Projects/Plants in U.P.

851. DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are proposing to set up some power projects in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details alongwith location thereof;

(c) the total expenditure proposed to be incurred thereon;

(d) whether the Government have chalk out any scheme to set up power sub-stations at Azamgarh and Varanasi districts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Supreme Court Ruling

852. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned Judges do not want Delhi to slum it. Remove four lakh jhuggis. SC appearing in the "Times of India" dated November 21, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court in its order dated 20th November, 1996 in W.P. (Civil), No.286 of 1994 took judicial notice of the fact that in India where about 30% of the people are living below poverty line, the problems of slums in the Urban areas is a natural phenomenon. The Court further observed that primarily it is for the Government of the day to short out this problem, since it is under a Constitutional obligation to provide shelter to the people. The Hon'ble Court had directed the Secretary, Government of India. Ministry of Urban Development to hold a meeting with the concerned Departments/Organisations in Delhi for considering the problems of slums in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and file a report before the Hon'ble Court. Accordingly a report has already been filed in the Supreme Court. The Government is now required to submit a comprehensive plan indicating the time bound programme for settlement of slum dwellers and urban poor. The matter is still subjudice.

Central Electronics Limited

853. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Electronics Limited (CEL) has been on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to improve its performance and to make it economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A comprehensive proposal for Capital Restructuring of the Company was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 15 January, 1997. The proposal essentially aims at improving the overall performance of CEL and making it economically viable in various areas of its operations in the new policy environment.

The Company has drawn up a strategy for strengthening of certain areas of its operations. This includes identification and inclusion of new products, upgradation of existing technologies and processes through in-house R&D efforts or in collaboration with other R&D institutions. The strategy also envisages acquiring know-how or marketing/technology tie-ups with other concerns, either indigenous or foreign.

Abraham Committee on Power

854. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Abraham Committee set up by the Union Government to evolve competitive bidding norms and a tariff structure for Private Power Projects has submitted its final recommendations;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether Government has accepted the recommendations in toto; and

(d) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations include, inter-alia, bulk power tariff based competitive bidding instead of the cost plus approach as at present, availability based tariff etc.

(c) and (d) The recommendations are under examination.

LPG Connections

855. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA
SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT
SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI
KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH
SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of applicants in the waiting list for LPG connection by the end of 1996;

(b) whether the Government propose to make available LPG connections to all these persons by the end of March, 1997;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of LPG connections released to each State during 1995 and 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (d) State-wise Statement showing the number of persons in the waiting list as well as the number of LPG connections released during 1994-95 & 1995-96 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Release of new connections for clearing of waiting list depends inter-alia upon product availability, slack available with the existing distributors, minimum/sustainable allocation to newly commissioned distributors, unviable distributors etc. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate a definite time frame for release of connections to the waitlisted persons. However, with the expected higher availability of LPG through imports, more connections are planned to be released and it is expected to clear the entire waiting list by the year 2000-1.

Statement

State	Waiting list as on 1.1.97 (Fig. in lakhs)	LPG Enrollment Fig. in Thousands 1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	10.74	176.1	131.3
Arunachal Pradesh	0.19	7.1	5.2
Assam	1.93	45.3	32.2
Bihar	4.18	105.0	46.1
Goa	0.89	8.4	8.0
Gujarat	8.43	109.8	77.1
Haryana	5.14	65.1	47.2
Himachal Pradesh	1.08	48.2	116.3
Jammu & Kashmir	1.63	37.4	79.8
Karnataka	7.19	119.8	102.5
Kerala	6.79	104.2	75.8
Madhya Pradesh	7.17	104.5	72.6
Maharashtra	19.05	350.9	261.6
Manipur	0.07	6.1	6.5
Meghalaya	0.08	5.7	7.2
Mizoram	0.08	6.5	8.8
Nagaland	0.07	3.7	4.2